Electronic Exchanges in Rural areas

2626. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which have been connected with telephones so far in the year 1999-2000 ;

(b) the number of villages which are to be connect during this financial year 2000-2001 ;

(c) what is the percentage of compliance ; and

(d) the number of Electronic Exchanges installed in the country in rural areas ?

THE MFNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 374,605 villages have been connected with telephones in the country as on 1-4-2000, 33,965 villages were connected with telephones during the year 1999-2000.

(b) 1,00,000 villages are proposed to be connected during the financial year 2000-2001.

(c) As on 1-4-2000, 62% villages have been covered with telephone facility in the country.

(d) 21,557 Electronic Exchanges have been installed in the country till 31-3-2000 in rural areas.

Waiting list of Rural Exchanges

2627. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COM MUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the total number of exchanges having rural network were 18,360 as on 1-4-98 and more than 12,12,581 people were in waiting list ;

(b) if so, the number of exchanges having rural network after completion of two years and the circle-wise number of villages to be served ; and

(c) the present situation of waiting list ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRl TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During the last two years 3,197 rural exchanges have been added and as on 1-4-2000, there are 21,557 rural exchanges in the country. The Rural waiting list as on 1-3-2000 is about 19.11 lakhs. Circle-wise information regarding villages having telephone facility, rural exchanges and rural waiting list is given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

Circle-wise details of villages having VPT facilities, number of rural exchanges and waiting list in the rural areas

SI No.	Circle	No. of villages having telephone facility as on 1-4-2000	No. of rural exchanges as on 1-4-2000	Waiting list in rural areas on 1-3-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra -Pradesh	23379	2042	204037
2.	Andaman & Nicobar	274	34	3096
3.	Assam	14181	296	4624
4.	Bihar	24923	750	49901
5.	Gujarat	13923	1528	53421
6.	Haryana	6807	734	46487
7.	Himachal Pradesh	10364	641	27158
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3793	149	7021
9.	Karnataka	25801	J 942	182289
10.	Kerala	1530	720	523563
11.	Madhya pradesh	46498	2535	8519
12.	Maharashtra	31541	2971	157470
13.	North East	4336	257	7399
14.	Orissa	22928	708	23465

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Punjab	12123	962	131137
16.	Rajasthan	23727	1682	74511
17.	Tamilnadu	17845	890	163375
18.	UP (East)	46492	1212	88624
19.	UP (West)	23531	722	18461
20.	West Bengal	19997	782	136409
21.	Calcutta Telephones	421	0	0
22.	Delhi	191	0	0
	Total:	374605	21557	1910967

Conversion of port exchanges

†2628. SHRI MONOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state ;

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had fixed a target in the year 1998 to upgrade all the existing C-128 port exchanges to C-256 port exchanges by the year 2000 in the interest of the consumers; and

(b) if so, the present position in this regard together with the measures being taken to achieve the target within the stipulated time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In November, 1998, DTS decided to upgrade all the C-128 exchanges to C-256P by March, 2000 subject to supply of upgradation kits. Purchase orders for required number of upgradation kits have been placed by the field units. However, due to delay in supply it has been possible to achieve the target fully. The position as on 1-4-2000 is as below :-

Exchanges upgraded upto 1-4-2000	2224
Exchanges yet to be upgrades	2504

The remaining exchanges are expected to be upgraded by December, 2000.

†Original Notice of the Question was received in Hindi.